

Thanks to a Special Community Partner & Special Memories

By PDG Barbara Beckham



The Blythewood Lions Club is indeed grateful for recent support received from Fairfield Electric Cooperative's Round-Up program. In response to a grant request made by our Lions Club, the Round-Up program approved funds for the club to purchase a PediaVision camera. The purchase of this camera will allow the Blythewood Lions to provide sight testing throughout the community at local daycares, schools, churches, and community events.

As I scheduled a photo opportunity with Bill Hart, Chief Executive Officer for Fairfield Electric, I also learned that 2014 is a very special year for "our" cooperative. Fairfield Electric is celebrating 75 years of serving our community. Having begun in 1939 and continually grown its services and reach across the Fairfield, Richland and Kershaw County areas, I wondered if we realize the value they have brought to us in Blythewood.

My father, Lion Robert Moak, turned 87 this August. Dad being a lifetime resident of Blythewood, I asked him his thoughts on the arrival of Fairfield Electric when he was a boy. Dad would have been 12 years old at the time the cooperative brought electric power to the rural area. Dad thought for a moment and then said the biggest advantage from his memory was being able to have an electric pump for the well. Prior to the electricity arriving, he and his brothers and sisters took turns pulling the chain to draw buckets of water from the well. He said he can still remember how hard it was to pull the chain up from the 90 foot well and the brownish-orange stain left on his hands from the rusty chain. On the weekends when his mother had to wash clothes in a wash tub outside; several buckets of water were needed to fill the wash tub, so they all took turns hoisting the bucket.

And, inside the house each room was lighted by a new light bulb hanging from the ceiling. This replaced their kerosene lamps—and thus the electric age began in Blythewood and surrounding areas. I know that many times in this modern age we take for granted the water flowing through our faucets and the lights that brighten our homes. It only takes an ice storm or thunderstorm to temporarily disrupt our power; and we are reminded of how it was in 1939 before Fairfield Electric brought electric energy to our rural area. I encourage all of us to remember the dedicated individuals that daily work to keep our lives electrified.

With the purchase of the camera a new era of sight service will come to our community. Thank you Fairfield Electric Cooperative for 75 years of service and continued support of our community!